

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A composition comprising an aqueous solution of 0.1-20 wt. % of a poly(amine) and 0.1 to 50 wt. % of a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%, which carboxylated carbohydrate has been obtained by subjecting a corresponding original carbohydrate to an oxidation treatment whereby carboxyl and aldehyde groups are obtained by oxidation of hydroxyl groups of the original carbohydrate, after which the oxidised carbohydrate so obtained is contacted with a reducing agent whereby at least part of the aldehyde groups that were obtained in the oxidation treatment are reduced to hydroxymethyl groups, whereby the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least part of the reducing agent and/or its reaction product(s), and wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate forms a complex with the poly(amine).
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein at least part of the carboxyl groups present in the carboxylated carbohydrate are obtained by carboxyalkylation of the original carbohydrate.
3. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate has a degree of aldehyde substitution in the range of from 0.1 to 20%.
4. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the poly (amine) comprises polyvinylamine.
5. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises an  $\alpha$ -1,3/1, 6- or  $\alpha$ -1, 4/1, 6-glucan.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises a starch.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least 20% of the reducing agent used in the reduction treatment.

8. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent comprises a borohydride.

9. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises carbonyl and/or aldehyde groups, which are obtained by oxidation of primary hydroxyl groups.

10. (Previously Presented) A composition claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises carboxyl and/or aldehyde groups, which are obtained by oxidation of secondary hydroxyl groups.

11. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate is chemically crosslinked.

12. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate is crosslinked with a dihydrazide.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a fibrous product, film, coating, foil or capsule comprising forming an aqueous solution of 0.1-20 wt. % of a poly(amine) and 0.1 to 50wt. % of a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%, which carboxylated carbohydrate has been obtained by subjecting a corresponding original carbohydrate to an oxidation treatment whereby carboxyl and aldehyde groups are obtained by oxidation of hydroxyl groups of the original carbohydrate, after which the oxidised carbohydrate so obtained is contacted with a

reducing agent whereby at least part of the aldehyde groups that were obtained in the oxidation treatment are reduced to hydroxymethyl groups, whereby the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least part of the reducing agent and/or its reaction product(s), and wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate forms a complex with the poly(amine) into a fibrous product, film, coating, foil or capsule.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing fibres comprising forming into fibers an aqueous solution of 0.1-20 wt.% a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%, of which carboxylated carbohydrate has been obtained by subjecting a corresponding original carbohydrate to an oxidation treatment whereby carboxyl and aldehyde groups are obtained by oxidation of hydroxyl groups of the original carbohydrate, after which the oxidised carbohydrate so obtained is contacted with a reducing agent whereby at least part of the aldehyde groups that were obtained in the oxidation treatment are reduced to hydroxymethyl groups, whereby the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least part of the reducing agent and/or its reaction product(s), and wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate forms a complex with the poly(amine), a poly(amine) and a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%.

15. (Previously Presented) Fibres made from the composition according to claim 1.

16.-18. (Canceled).

19. (Original) A composition comprising fibres according to claim 15.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a composition which comprises forming fibres made from an aqueous solution of 0.1-20 wt. % of a poly(amine) and 0.1 to 50wt. % of a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and

a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%, which carboxylated carbohydrate has been obtained by subjecting a corresponding original carbohydrate to an oxidation treatment whereby carboxyl and aldehyde groups are obtained by oxidation of hydroxyl groups of the original carbohydrate, after which the oxidised carbohydrate so obtained is contacted with a reducing agent whereby at least part of the aldehyde groups that were obtained in the oxidation treatment are reduced to hydroxymethyl groups, whereby the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least part of the reducing agent and/or its reaction product(s), and wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate forms a complex with the poly(amine) into a composition.

21. (Original) Paper product comprising fibres according to claim 15.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a paper product which comprises forming fibres made from an aqueous solution of 0.1-20 wt. % of a poly(amine) and 0.1 to 50wt. % of a carboxylated carbohydrate having an average molecular weight of at least 100,000 D and a degree of carboxyl substitution of at least 5%, which carboxylated carbohydrate has been obtained by subjecting a corresponding original carbohydrate to an oxidation treatment whereby carboxyl and aldehyde groups are obtained by oxidation of hydroxyl groups of the original carbohydrate, after which the oxidised carbohydrate so obtained is contacted with a reducing agent whereby at least part of the aldehyde groups that were obtained in the oxidation treatment are reduced to hydroxymethyl groups, whereby the carboxylated carbohydrate comprises at least part of the reducing agent and/or its reaction product(s), and wherein the carboxylated carbohydrate forms a complex with the poly(amine) into a paper product.